



MEDIEVAL CALENDAR LEAF FOR OCTOBER, c. 1420-40

IM-10456: (197 x 138mm) Original leaf from a medieval manuscript Book of Hours. Ruled in red for 17 lines of French text. Written in blue, red or gold ink on animal vellum. Large illuminated two-line "KL" initials (for KALENDS) in blue and red on a burnished gold ground with floral interior in blue, red and orange. Five illuminated one-line initials in burnished gold on a ground of blue and red with delicate white tracery. Elegant rinceaux panel border in a delicate floral motif with ivy leaves in red, blue, green, orange and burnished gold.

Northern France (Paris), c. 1420-40.

Among the feasts listed are **St. Francis of Assisi** (4th - patron saint of animals), **St. Denis** (9th - patron saint of Paris), **St. Gabriel** (16th), **St. Luke** (18th - patron saint of doctors and sculptors), and **St. Simon** (28th - patron saint of curriers and tanners).

Left of the saints' days are repeating letters A - G called **Dominical Letters** since they help find Sundays. Far left is a column of Roman numerals i - xix called **Golden Numbers** to indicate appearances of new moons, & counting ahead 14 days, full moons throughout the year (year + 1; divide by 19; remainder is Golden Number - if zero GN = 19). Finally: each month had 3 fixed points: Kalends (1st day) Ides (middle) & Nones (9th day before Ides). All days in between were counted **hackwards** from these points